



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to request that the Education for Democracy Act be included in the fiscal year 2007 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill at \$29.4 million which is the same level of funding that was provided by Congress for FY 2005. The effectiveness of the civic education domestic and international programs of the Act -- which reaches an estimated 5 million students annually -- have been amply demonstrated by independent research and evaluation. Additionally, programs from the economic education exchange program reached an estimated 2.4 million students in 2004-2005.

These programs make a significant contribution to the U.S. commitment to strengthening freedom and democracy in the United States in emerging democracies throughout the world. The Civic Education Exchange Program is now running effective programs in more than 70 emerging democracies and includes transatlantic partnerships with European nations; effective programs in Arab nations in the Middle East and North Africa, and other Islamic nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia; and significant achievements in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, and Mexico. Additionally, the Economic Education Exchange Program is helping students in 30 emerging democracies understand the principles and institutions of a free market economy and their relationship to democracy.

The Education for Democracy Act funds valuable initiatives that have been proven to increase students' fundamental understanding of democracy, improve the school environment, and increase academic achievement. Independent evaluations testify to the success of these initiatives in promoting civic and economic knowledge; intellectual and participatory skills; and civic dispositions such as civility, tolerance, respect for the rule of law, and a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles of our constitutional democracy (see attached research highlights). The principal programs supported by the Education for Democracy Act are the following:

- **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution.** This intensive curricular program provides students at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels with a profound understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the principles of a free democratic republic.

- **We the People: Project Citizen.** This curricular program for middle school students and youth groups promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government.

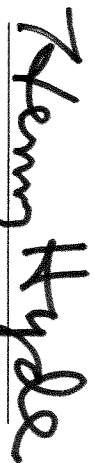
Note: The volunteer networks used to operate both of the initiatives above have effected significant cost savings by using federal dollars to leverage substantial contributions of funds, in-kind services, and donated facilities from local and state sources that more than double the federal dollars devoted to the programs.

- **School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program.** This curriculum, training, and research program is designed to improve students' civic knowledge, skills, and attitudes. It supports research and evaluation to determine changes in students' civic knowledge and attitudes as they relate to tolerance of the ideas of others; civic responsibility; authority and the law; and social and political institutions.
- **Representative Democracy in America: Voices of the People.** This innovative program has launched a series of annual congressional conferences on civic education. These conferences have lead to the mobilization of efforts to improve civic education at state and local levels throughout the nation. The program also is developing and implementing curricular materials for elementary and secondary students that are designed to foster an understanding of and appreciation for the fundamental principles of representative democracy and for legislative institutions at national, state, and local levels in order to counter the widespread lack of support for these institutions.

- **Cooperative Education Exchange Programs.** The **Civic Education Exchange Program** links leading civic educators and organizations in the United States with their peers in emerging and established democracies, with the goal of improving education for democracy. Today, American educators from more than 33 states work with civic education leaders from more than 70 emerging democracies. Similarly, the **Economic Education Exchange Program** also supported under the same legislation helps students in 30 emerging democracies understand the principles and institutions of a market economy and their relationship to democracy. These international education exchange programs are helping our nation meet the key U.S. foreign policy objectives of promoting democracy and freedom across the world.

There is a continuing need to develop among our youth an understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. If we are truly to be a nation of, by, and for the people, we must promote classroom programs that have been effective in combating apathy, cynicism, and widespread ignorance of some of the most basic facts and ideals of the American system of government. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



HENRY HYDE

Chairman

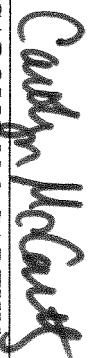
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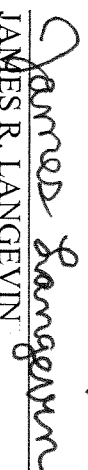
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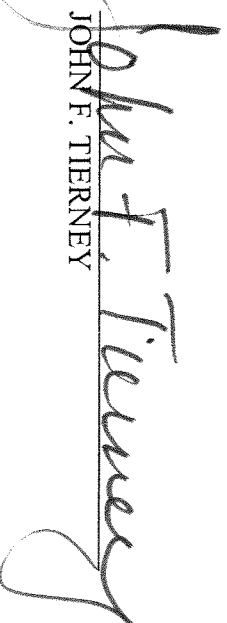
RICK LARSEN



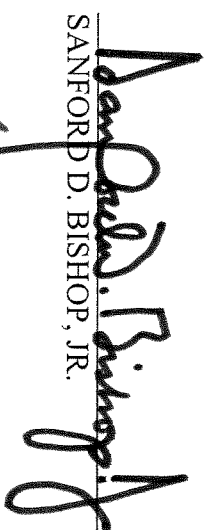
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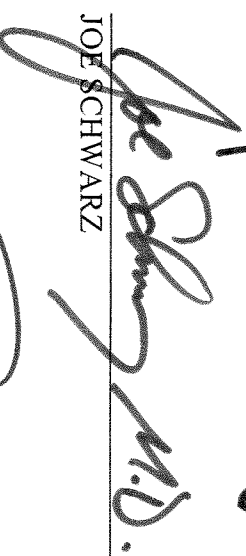
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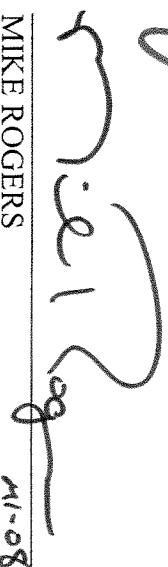
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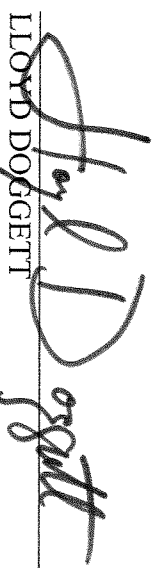
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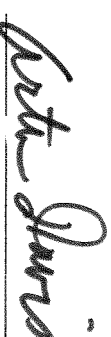
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MIKE ROGERS



LLOYD DOGGETT




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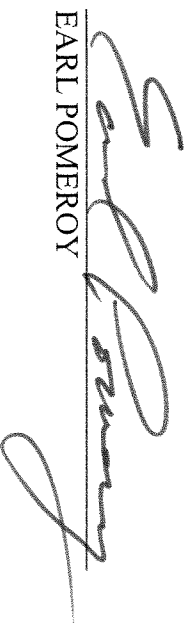
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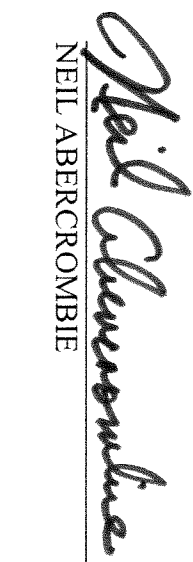
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RAUL GRIJALVA



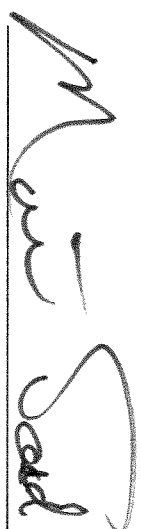
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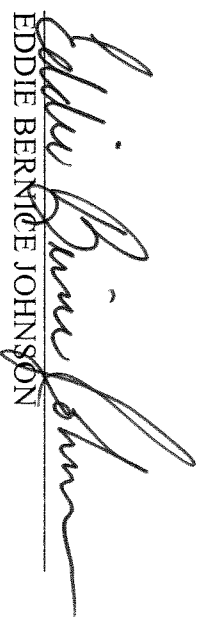
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BEN CHANDLER



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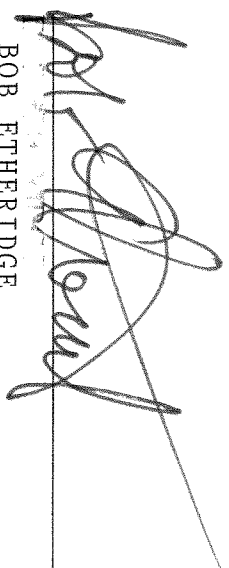
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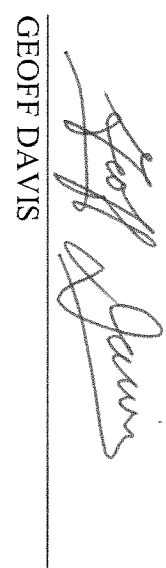
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BOB ETHERIDGE



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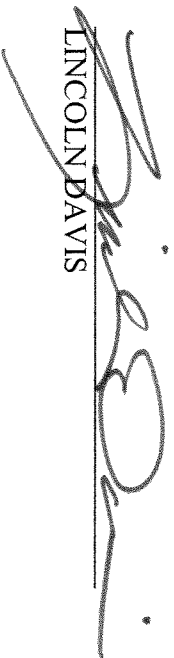
GEOFF DAVIS



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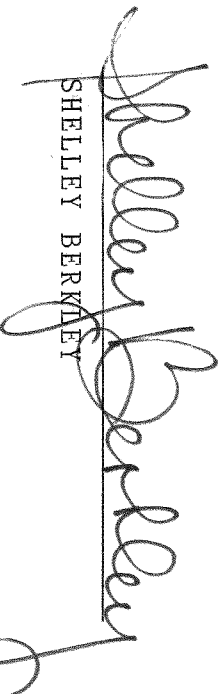
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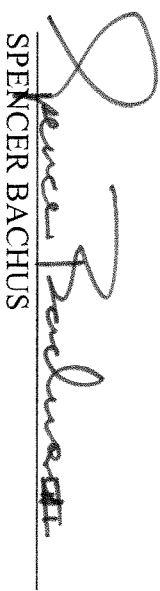

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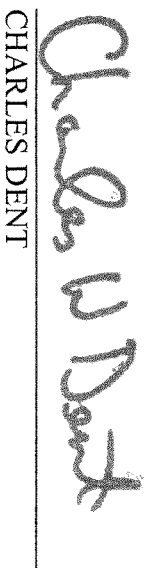

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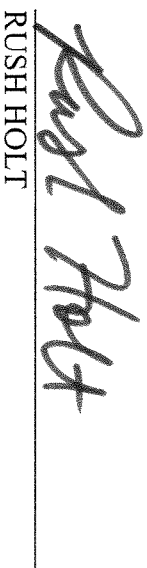

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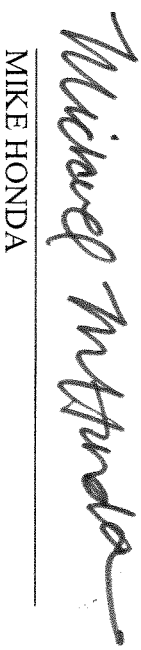

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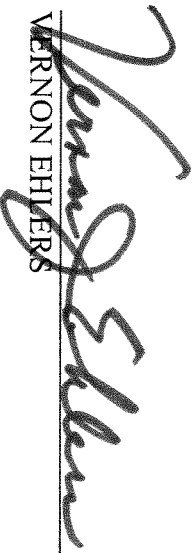

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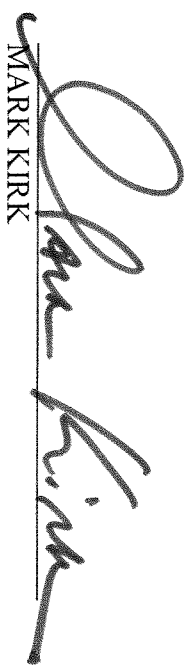

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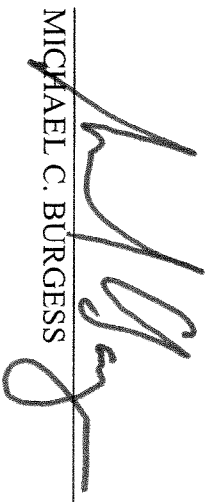

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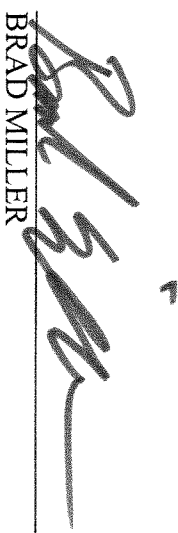

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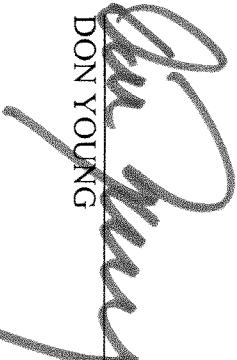

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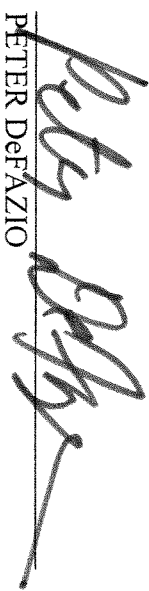

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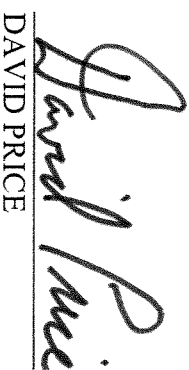

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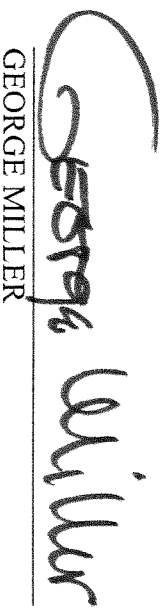

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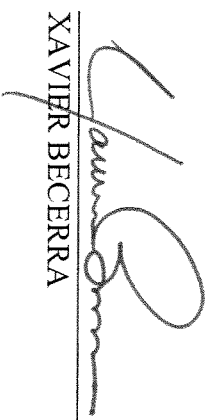

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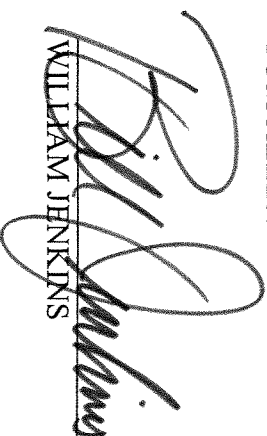

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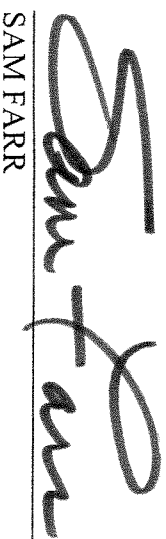

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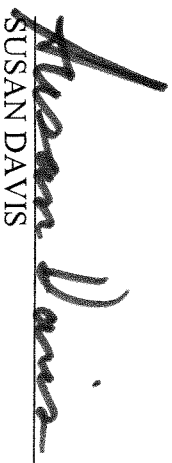

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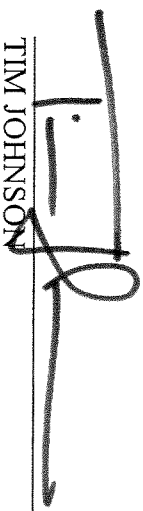

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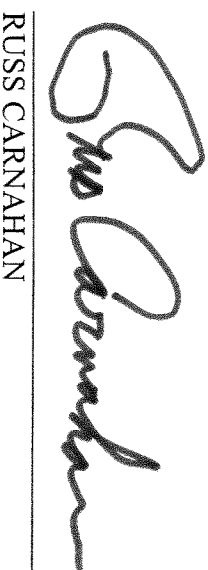

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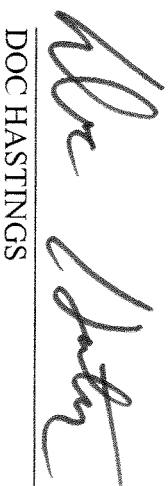

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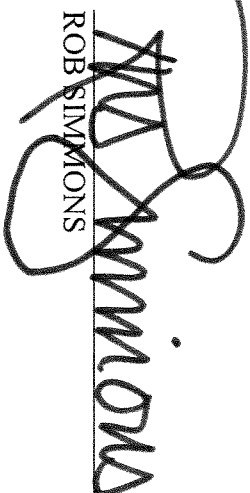

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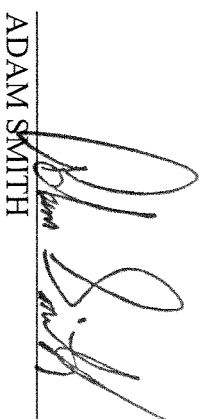

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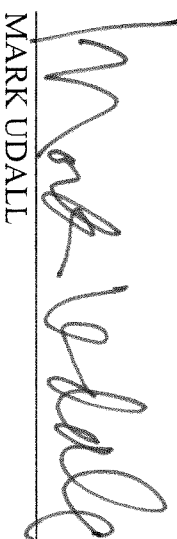

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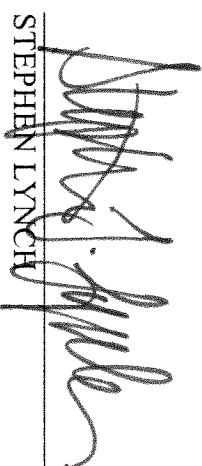

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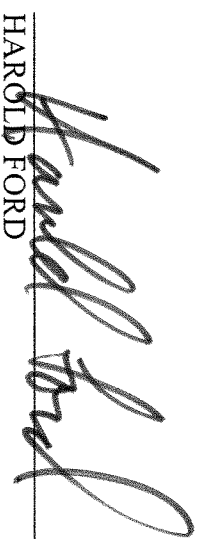

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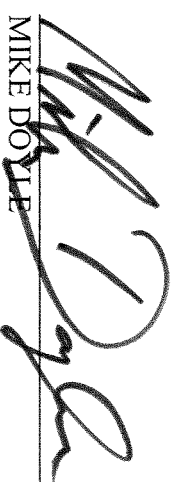

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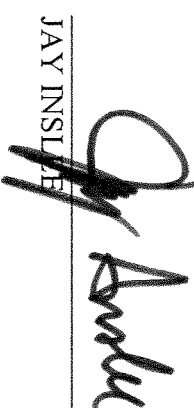

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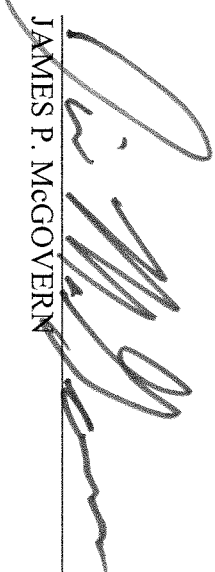

ADAM SCHIFF


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STEPHANIE HERSETH


MIKE DOYLE


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JIM DAVIS

Bart Gordon

BART GORDON

M. H. Oxley

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Major R. Owens

MAJOR R. OWENS

Doris O. Matsui

DORIS MATSUI

John Dingell

JOHN DINGELL

Carolyn M. Maloney

CAROLYN MALONEY

Sherrod Brown

SHERROD BROWN

Jerrold Nadler

JERROLD NADLER

Frank Lucas

FRANK LUCAS

Bart Stupak

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JANE HARMAN

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TOM LANTOS


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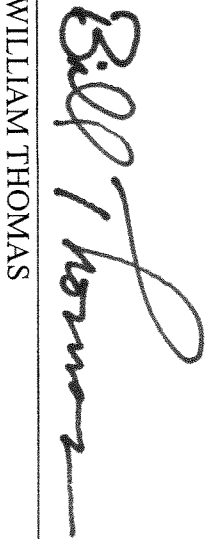
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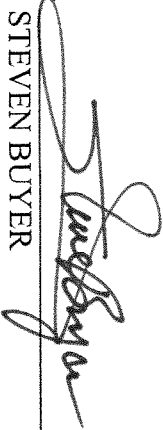
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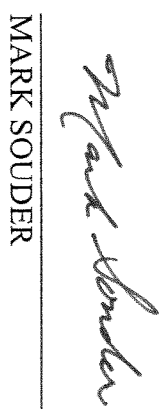

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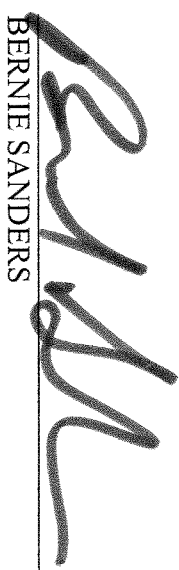

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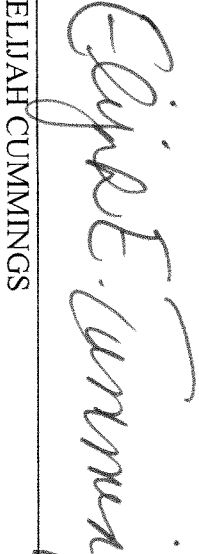

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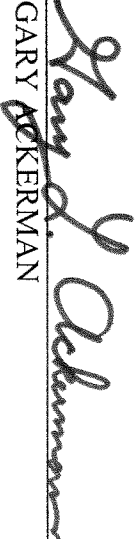

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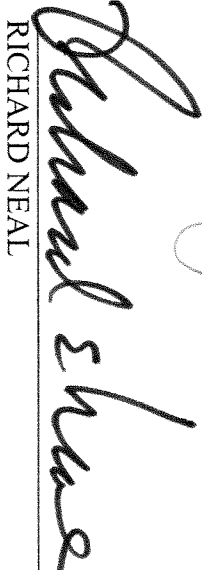

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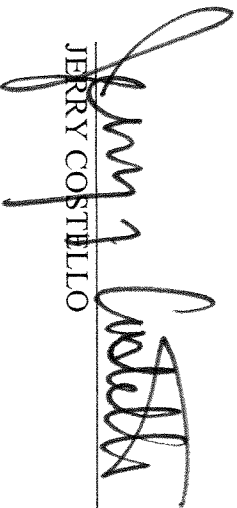

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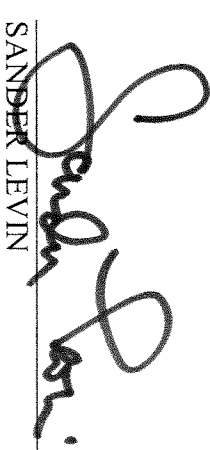

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BARNEY FRANK


LYNN WOOLSEY


RICHARD NEAL


JERRY COSTELLO


SANDER LEVIN

Bob Filner

BOB FILNER

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DARLENE HOOLEY

Maurice Hinchey

MAURICE HINCHEY

Mike McIntyre

MIKE MCINTYRE

Rob Andrews

ROB ANDREWS

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Earl Blumenauer

EARL BLUMENAUER

Will Delahunt

WILLIAM DELAHUNT

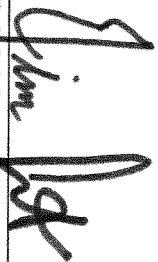
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Norm Dicks

NORM DICKS

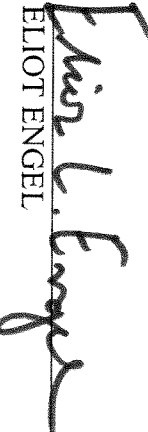

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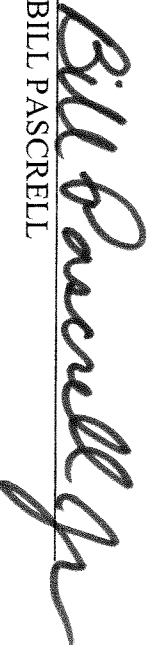

JIM COSTA



CHARLES BOUSTANY


MARSHA BLACKBURN


MICHAEL MCCAUL


ELIOT ENGEL


BILL PASCRELL


JIM LEACH